

R E M A R K S

Each of pending Claims 10-13 was again rejected in the above-identified Office Action as being anticipated by the cited Matoba patent. However, independent Claim 10 has been amended in a manner which is believed to render that claim patentable over the cited Matoba patent as discussed herein. Accordingly, Claims 11-13 which depend from Claim 10 are also believed to be allowable.

As amended herein, Claim 10 may now be characterized as an image pickup apparatus which is arranged with a scanning circuit, and with a decoder which divides the scanning circuit into a plurality of blocks and which includes a latch circuit to which a start signal is supplied corresponding to a block at which scanning starts. In this regard, the scanning circuit generates the start signal to instruct the decoder to start the control of the scanning circuit to scan a sensor portion (as shown in Figs. 9B and 10). As a result of the invention as now set forth in Claim 10 and as characterized above, it is possible to drive a shift register at a high speed without causing operating problems even if the number of scanning start points is increased.


Referring now to the cited Matoba patent, Applicants stress that those requirements of amended Claim 10 are not disclosed or suggested by that reference. Instead, the Matoba patent discloses the provision of a switch disposed between circuit units of a shift register and the control of a scanning start point of a sensor portion by controlling the on and off states of the switch (Fig. 18A). Accordingly, the Matoba patent does not disclose Applicants' claimed latch circuit functioning together with the decoder and the scanning circuit as recited in amended independent Claim 10. Also, if more scanning start points are required in the Matoba system, that system would require more

switches and related wirings along the shift register circuit, and this would prevent the shift register from operating at a high speed since the many switches and the wirings thereof would cause an increase of parasitic capacitance.

For all of these various reasons given above, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and Applicants solicit the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



John A. Krause
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 24,613

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 530406v1